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**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

- Q' 1
1. (Currently Amended) A method of transcoding an input video data stream to achieve a desired output video data stream, said transcoding method comprising:  
decoding the input video data stream,  
intra-transcoding the decoded video data stream, the step of intra-transcoding including detecting and removing video data representative of black bands in the input video stream,  
encoding the intra-transcoded video data stream, and  
post-encoding the encoded intra-transcoded video data stream.
  2. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of intra-transcoding further comprises deinterlacing the video data stream.
  3. (Cancelled)
  4. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the decoded video data stream includes compression errors and the step of intra-transcoding further comprises removing the compression errors from the decoded video data stream.
  5. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of intra-transcoding further comprises synchronizing the video data stream.
  6. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of encoding further comprises applying an encoding profile to achieve the desired output video data stream.
  7. (Original) The method according to claim 6 wherein the step of applying an encoding profile to achieve the desired output video data stream further comprises setting a bit rate to achieve the desired output video data stream.

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8. (Original) The method according to claim 6 wherein the step of applying an encoding profile to achieve the desired output video data stream further comprises setting a video frame size to achieve the desired output video data stream.
9. (Original) The method according to claim 6 wherein the step of applying an encoding profile to achieve the desired output video data stream further comprises setting a key frame spacing to achieve the desired output video data stream.
10. (Original) The method according to claim 6 wherein the step of applying an encoding profile to achieve the desired output video data stream further comprises setting a quality to achieve the desired output video data stream.
11. (Currently Amended) A system for transcoding an input video data stream to a desired output video data stream, said transcoding system comprising:
- means for decoding the input video data stream,
  - means for intra-transcoding the decoded video data stream, said means for intra-transcoding including means for detecting and removing video data representative of black bands in the input video stream,
  - means for encoding the intra-transcoded video data stream, and
  - means for post-encoding the encoded intra-transcoded video data stream.
12. The system according to claim 11 wherein the means for intra-transcoding further comprises means for deinterlacing the video data stream.
13. (Canceled)
14. The system according to claim 11 wherein the decoded video data stream includes compression errors and the means for intra-transcoding further comprises means for removing the compression errors from the decoded video data stream.

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15. The system according to claim 11 wherein the means for intra-transcoding further comprises means for synchronizing the video data stream.
16. The system according to claim 11 wherein the means for encoding further comprises means for applying an encoding profile to achieve the desired output video data stream.
17. The system according to claim 16 wherein the means for applying an encoding profile to achieve the desired output video data stream further comprises means for setting a bit rate to achieve the desired output video data stream.
18. The system according to claim 16 wherein the means for applying an encoding profile to achieve the desired output video data stream further comprises means for setting a video frame size to achieve the desired output video data stream.
19. The system according to claim 16 wherein the means for applying an encoding profile to achieve the desired output video data stream further comprises means for setting a key frame spacing to achieve the desired output video data stream.
20. The system according to claim 16 wherein the means for applying an encoding profile to achieve the desired output video data stream further comprises means for setting a quality to achieve the desired output video data stream.